

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPR-02 A-01 ACDA-05 SY-05 OMB-01 /087 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3376

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

CINCLANT POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA VIOLENCE: SITUATION REPORT MARCH 31

1. LUANDA REMAINED SUPERFICIALLY CALM OVER THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 29-30. THE 2100-0600 CURFEW WAS LIFTED ON MARCH 29 BUT CITIZENS WERE ASKED TO VOLUNTARILY RESTRICT THEIR TRAVEL AT NIGHT. A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED MARCH 29 BY THE LUANDA OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY (LUOPCON) LISTS SEVERAL SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 28, INCLUDING A DELAY IN THE RELEASE OF POWS, ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF BUILDINGS AND CONTROL OF TRANSIT AND PEOPLE, PATROLS BY UNITS OTHER THAN THE INTEGRATED FORCE AND ISOLATED SHOOTING INCIDENTS. IT DID NOT APPORTION BLAME FOR THESE EVENTS.

2. A HALF-HOUR SHOOT-OUT TOOK PLACE IN MID-MORNING MARCH 31

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ON THE EDGE OF THE EUROPEAN SECTOR OF THE CITY. A CONGEN OFFICER

WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA SAID THE CAUSE WAS APPARENTLY ONE UNARMED BUT UNIFORMED FNLA SOLDIER WHO WALKED TOO CLOSELY TO AN MPLA OFFICER. THE MPLA OPENED FIRE AND THE SOLDIER HID. HIS FNLA COMPATRIOTS DOWN THE BLOCK PUT DOWN A COVERING FIRE TO PERMIT HIM TO ESCAPE, AND AFTER HE MADE HIS GET-AWAY THE TWO UNITS, JOINED BY OTHER TROOPS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY, TOOK POT-SHOTS AT EACH OTHER. NO CASUALTIES WERE NOTED.

3. TALKS WE'VE HAD TODAY WITH VARIOUS PORTUGUESE AND LIBERATION MOVEMENT OFFICIALS INDICATE TO US A MOOD OF APPREHENSION AND PESSIMISM OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE FRAGILE TRUCE. THE TWO MOVEMENTS HAVE VIOLATED THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE MARCH 28 AGREEMENT. NO TROOPS HAVE YET BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE MIXED FORCE, ALTHOUGH THE MOVEMENTS HAVE UNTIL APRIL 5 TO DO SO. THE DISARMING OF THE ARMED CIVILIANS, MAINLY MPLA SYMPATHIZERS, CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL THE MIXED FORCE IS AVAILABLE TO MAKE THE SEARCHES AND DISARMINGS; THE PORTUGUESE WILL NOT DO IT ALONE. THE ALL-IMPORTANT WITHDRAWAL OF LIBERATION GROUP FORCES IN EXCESS OF THE 500 MEN WILL NOT START UNTIL THE SITUATION NORMALIZES, WHICH FNLA INTERPRETS TO MEAN AFTER THE DISARMING OF THE ARMED CIVILIANS. THE INTEGRATION OF THE 500 MEN PRESENTS NO PROBLEM TO THE GROUPS AND MAY WELL BE ACCOMPLISHED. DISARMING THE CIVILIANS IS PROBABLY AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK EVEN IF IT HAD MPLA'S COOPERATION. THEY HAVE GIVEN, ACCORDING TO MOST REPORTS, THOUSANDS OF WEAPONS TO THE "PEOPLE," WITHOUT RECORDS OF WHO RECEIVED THEM. IT'S MORE LIKELY THE PEOPLE WILL HIDE THEIR GUNS RATHER THAN TURN THEM OVER. AND UNTIL FNLA IS SATISFIED THAT THE MASSES ARE DISARMED AND DON'T PRESENT A THREAT TO THEM, FNLA IS UNLIKELY TO PULL OUT ANY "EXCESS" TROOPS FROM THE CITY.

4. CASUALTY FIGURES HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY AS REPORTS CONTINUE TO COME IN. MOST SOURCES NOW ESTIMATE THE DEAD AT WELL OVER TWO HUNDRED. BOTH FNLA AND MPLA COMMITTED ATROCITIES. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED THE KNOWN MASSACRES BY FNLA. MPLA, FOR ITS PART, EXECUTED FNLA OFFICIAL JOSE PEDRO SEBASTIAO. IN THE GHETTOS, MPLA ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN KNOCKING ON DOORS TO ASK IF THE INHABITANTS ARE FROM THE NORTH. IF THE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE, THOSE INSIDE ARE DRAGGED OFF TO MPLA MAKESHIFT PRISONS, WHERE MANY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID TO HAVE BEEN SHOT. GHETTO DWELLERS COMPLAIN THAT FNLA ADOPTED THE SAME TACTIC.

5. DESPITE THE BAN ON A PROVINCIA, FNLA IS REACHING THE PUBLIC THROUGH ITS WEEKLY PAPER, LIBERTADE E TERRA, WHICH IT IS PUBLISHING ON A PROVINCIA PRESSES IN THAT NEWSPAPER'S FORMAT.

6. WE SEE ALMOST NO POSSIBILITY OF A RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN FNLA AND MPLA; THE MOST THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED
IS A SEMI-PERMANENT TRUCE AND THIS IS NOW DIFFICULT BECAUSE
OLD HATREDS AND THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE ARE STRONGER THAN EVER.
KILLORAN

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